



LIFE GROUP MINUTES from March 14, 2016

Dena Van Lith opened the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting started with a Mardi Gras recap by Mandi Pederson. After expenses, we made approx. \$2100. Everyone agreed it was a very successful event... even though we had the hurdle of bad weather!

Susie Wendland presented numbers for the dinner theater. After all expenses turned in, we stand at \$9497.00 in profit.

Carrie Novy gave us an update on the 2016 gala. The theme this year is "A Night in Oz". We discussed prizes, ornaments (to be decorated with fingerprints by the students), and ticket sales.

Brenda Anderson discussed some school news. We have raised \$629 so far in the Schwan's Cares Program. This goes into the school account.

We spoke about the Junior Achievement program and the benefits to our students. Paula Rausch spoke about past years and the impact that it has made on our kids. We would like to make a donation to the program, and we voted that \$100 would be a great starting point for this year.

The teachers found a deal on a western (barn) theme for Catholic Schools Week for \$150. It would need to be ordered now in order to get the discounted price, even though it may not be used for a few years. It was decided to have them order it.

Brenda also brought up that the need for Chrome books will be extended to 3rd and 4th grade for next year. We will need approx. 20-25 additional devices. This may run approx. \$179 plus approx. \$27 per device.

The "That's my Pan" fundraiser has been a great success and we will be placing another order soon!

Brenda also presented another fundraising idea (made by Steve Brown) which would be selling raffle tickets for a Yeti ice house package. We all agreed it sounds like a wonderful idea if we could figure out the logistics and make it work for our school.

Dena Van Lith spoke about the Dine & Donate program at Shady Beach Supper Club. If you eat at Shady on specific nights (the first night being March 17th), 20% of your bill will be donated to St Lawrence!

Dena and Brenda talked about what we can do as a school to come up with little things that can lift Mrs. Weissenfluh's spirits. Suggested ideas are making her a banner, raking her yard, setting up a bird bath or feeder for her to look at, doing a spiritual bouquet, dedicating a children's mass to her, etc.

Since she has a treatment tomorrow, we decided to make a banner tomorrow morning and have all of the kids sign it. We will get balloons and Susie Wendland and Nancy Kruger will bring it out to their house before they get home from Sioux Falls.

Susie Wendland spoke about starting a student council for our school. There were many ideas presented and ways we could make it work. Kari Untalan said that she would be willing to work with Susie to form a committee to figure out the logistics for next year. Susie spoke of all the benefits to our students and also to the community that a student council could potentially provide.

Dena and Carrie spoke about potential new members of the LIFE board. Susie will become the new president and the Vice President and Treasurer positions will be open. We will vote about this at the next meeting.

Brenda brought up the costs of tuition. We discussed how much it costs per student to attend St Lawrence vs how much is paid in tuition costs and fundraising efforts. We discussed potential options for parents to pay tuition plus a fee with a zero fundraising option vs a tuition plus fundraising option. Both options have pluses and minuses, but the main point tonight was to raise awareness of what the parish contributes to the tuition costs and why we need to continue our fundraising efforts.

18 people were in attendance. Dena closed with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Susie Wendland, LIFE Group Secretary/Vice President